

“One of my biggest concerns deals with National Security Letters (NSLs),” Honda stated. An NSL is an FBI tool used to compel companies and other entities, to give the Bureau private information about their customers -- and keep the request secret. Americans are concerned that NSLs could, and would be applied to libraries for example. T

his measure would exempt libraries from NSLs only if they don't offer Internet access. The American Library Association puts the number of libraries without Internet access near zero. “Whether intended or not, S. 2271 clears the way for libraries to be subjected to NSLs,” Honda stated.

“We most definitely need to utilize every resource to insure Americans are safe in their homes and workplaces; on their roads and rivers; and of our ports and borders – but we must be equally vigilant to protect American civil liberties guaranteed over 200 years ago in our Constitution. I, along with many of my colleagues, asked for moderate changes that would have ensured that these extraordinary new powers are directed solely at terrorists, and that each new power had meaningful court review. These efforts would have put the PATRIOT Act in line with the Constitution, as well as long-held American values,” the Congressman said.

 “The House chose not to accept our Constitutional concerns. It is clear to me that S. 2271 continues to unnecessarily undermine fundamental American civil liberties. Therefore I will not

support this measure,” Honda concluded.

